



## **FY 2010 - Chippewa NF Accomplishments with LLBO**

### *Ecosystem Restoration:*

- We organized and hosted a very successful Interagency Ash Symposium May 25-27 with high quality presentations, examples of traditional uses, reps from 7 states, 12 Indian Bands, and wide representation from 200 others to the Chippewa National Forest. Two employees received the DNR Partnering Award for this effort. An Interdisciplinary Team is now addressing an Ash Restoration Study, and EAB Sanitation Preparation planning.

### **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**

We were highly successful at obligating and implementing \$5.5 Million of Recovery Act funds on 30 project segments. Highlights include:

#### *Ecosystem/Watershed Recovery Act projects:*

- Quickly replaced 9 culverts for aquatic organism passage with partners MN DNR, LLBO and Itasca County and decommissioned three impoundment structures.

#### *Roads and Trails Recovery Act projects:*

- Productively partnered with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and the Tribal Employment Program (TEP) to maintain priority trails.
- Three Experimental Research Forests within the Chippewa NF received much needed road maintenance including water crossing improvements with the aid of LLBO and Itasca County.
- In partnership with Beltrami County and the MN DOT, the Mission Road (Forest Highway 57) realignment means safer vehicular travel and access for forest local residents and forest visitors.

#### *Camp Rabideau project:*

- Over 1.5 million of restoration improvements will allow youth to re-use the camp. Earth Tech, a contractor from the Red Lake Reservation, took a personal interest in the success of the project.
- We executed 34 new agreements valued at \$2.8 million. Eleven of these were with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

### **Tribal Relations**

#### *Working Across Boundaries:*

- With years in development, a Programmatic Agreement with the Leech Lake Band was accepted by both governments to implement national forest heritage evaluations.
- Represented Minnesota's National Forests at a national Tribal Listening Session for the President's Initiative on America's Great Outdoors.
- The Enbridge Pipeline installation and timber sale resulted in 65% of the timber donated for firewood use by Leech Lake Band members and 35% sold to local mills
- Chippewa National Forest hosted training on the Tribal Forest Protection Act that drew 18 participants from the local area and Regions 3 and 9.
- Implemented a cooperative agreement with the Leech Lake Band to assist in fire protection on tribal lands within the Chippewa NF.

*Partnerships:*

- Lydick Brook, a second stewardship contract with the Leech Lake Band, was awarded to harvest 227 acres (2468 ccf) and provide trail and permanent opening maintenance, planting 27 acres.
- The Leech Lake Band implemented a hazardous fuels reduction project near the town of Ball Club with assistance from a Hazardous Fuel (Stevens' fund) grant through the NF system.
- Successfully competed for a second Wildland Fire Hazardous Fuels grant (\$155,000) for 160 acres hazardous fuels reduction work on tribal and private lands near the community of Bena and the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School.
- Cooperatively identified proactive mitigation measures with the Leech Lake Band Division of Resource Management for the high voltage powerline construction project.

*Employment:*

- Seven additional band members were added to the workforce: a student position converted to permanent fulltime work, a seasonal position, two youth in summer programs, and 3 individuals through tribal work programs.
- The successful Recovery Act Fire Fighter Crew with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe was extended with an additional \$100,000.
- Eleven new agreements were initiated with the Leech Lake Band.

*Recruitment and Retention:* The Chippewa National Forest maintained the highest percentage in R9 of permanent employees of Native American descent.

- We hosted over 35 youth in YCC, Rabideau Conservation Corps and Summer Youth Programs.
- A graduating student from the Leech Lake Tribal College (STEM program) returned for a third year.
- *Diversity Grant:* Successfully competed for a 3 year/\$55,000 annual Fire and Aviation workforce grant to incorporate recruitment and fire training at Camp Rabideau in FY 11.
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*Government to Government Relations:*

- Regular contact was sustained between the Forest Supervisor and the Leech Lake Band Executive Director. The Chippewa National Forest and the Leech Lake Band recently identified mutual interest in utilizing the Tribal Forest Protection Act, initiating an MOU, and previously implemented a new firewood gathering process.
- The new Chippewa National Forest Resource Advisory Committee was appointed in August and initiates work October 7<sup>th</sup>. Two tribal members have been appointed.